



CITY OF GALLATIN, TENNESSEE

**“A Vision for a Viable, Healthy,
Prosperous, Green Community”**

February 13, 2006



CITY OF GALLATIN, TENNESSEE GREENWAY CONCEPT MASTER PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Greenways across the country and throughout Tennessee are supporting community economic development and growth management. As an asset to communities, they are unmatched in many cases for assisting with transportation, recreation, conservation, and education needs; the components necessary for connecting and serving diverse populations with the healthy and culturally valuable choices that good growth demands.

- ❑ **Quality of life** – Through preservation of our unique cultural heritage, through environment stewardship, through active and passive recreation and learning opportunities.
- ❑ **Aesthetics** – Greenways improve the overall appeal of a community to its residents and visitors. They soften urban and suburban landscapes with natural landscapes of green vegetation.
- ❑ **Expenditures by Residents** – spending by local residents on greenway related activities help support recreation oriented business and employment as well as business that is patronized by greenway users.
- ❑ **Tourism** – The National Parks Service states that outdoor recreation and leisure expenditures account for substantial discretionary spending and **eco-tourism** is one of the fastest growing sectors of the travel business.
- ❑ **Commercial Users** – location and resources for activities using recreation equipment rental and sales, lessons, special events and on-site concessions provide business opportunities.
- ❑ **Conservation of Natural Resources** – the conservation properties of greenways reduce costs resulting from flooding and other natural hazards. Greenways serve as a buffer to highway noise pollution. They improve water quality because vegetation and riparian zones filter out pollutants entering water sources. This can reduce costs of waste water pretreatments.
- ❑ **Real Property Values** – substantive studies demonstrate that greenways increase nearby property values and marketability.
- ❑ **Corporate Relocation and Retention** – Studies show that one aspect of the quality of life of a community, the access to quality natural, recreational and educational settings, in an increasingly important factor in corporate relocation decisions. The Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress reports that a city's quality of life is more important than purely business-related factors when it comes to attracting new business.
- ❑ **Intrinsic Value** – the value of healthy choices in transportation, recreation, conservation, and education maintain an active and involved community of people. Good choices preserve human diversity and biodiversity.

The planning principles established in the Greenway Concept Master Plan directly support these elements of proactive quality of life and economic growth and development for the citizens of Gallatin while enhancing other growth and development projects in the City such as the new downtown library, the downtown revitalization plan, and road work plans.

To increase the viability of the greenway's contributions to the future of Gallatin best practice principles have been used to guide the planning of the Gallatin Greenway to ensure accessibility, high usability, and adequate funding to continue the greenway system are attainable.

The planning principles that guide the greenway system development are:

- ☐ **Transportation** – providing alternative travel modes such as walking, jogging, bicycling.
- ☐ **Recreation** – providing diverse opportunities for both active and passive outdoor activity for residents and tourists.
- ☐ **Conservation** – providing development management, pollution controls, and wildlife habitat preservation.
- ☐ **Education** – providing vistas for outdoor classrooms, cultural and historical activities, and a variety of nature activities.

Each principle is explained in more detail in the plan and each is considered and planned for as segments of the system are designed and implemented. The order of priority or minimum standard of each principle is affected by various locations and impact surveys within the greenway system. Full consideration of each principle during the planning, design and implementation of each greenway segment accomplishes the goal of maximum public use of the greenway.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GALLATIN GREENWAY STEERING COMMITTEE

In November 2005, the Mayor formally authorized the Gallatin Greenway Steering Committee to serve as the advisory committee of the Greenway Project for the City of Gallatin Planning Commission and City Council. The Committee's responsibilities include:

- ☐ Meeting with the public for input on the greenway project. Input includes greenway locations, greenway design and development, greenway purposes (conservation, education, recreation.)
- ☐ Incorporating appropriate design standards that increase the ability to procure funding for the greenway master plan, increase the potential for use by the greatest number of our citizens and visitors, and increase needed conservation within an urban setting.
- ☐ The Planning Commission and City Council charge the Committee with development of a comprehensive Greenway Mater Plan for adoption.

GALLATIN GREENWAY STEERING COMMITTEE

The following is a list of the members of the Gallatin Greenway Steering Committee:

Name	Affiliation
Donna Belote	Greater Gallatin
Lee Ann Foust	Tangled Wing Wildlife Conservancy
Michelle Haynes	Citizen/Real Estate
Joyce Hoyle	Citizen/Greenway-Trails Expert
Hartley Scott	Citizen/Landscape Architect
Denise Upchurch	Citizen/Business Owner
Buffy Baril	Keep Gallatin Beautiful
Jane Sudbury	Citizen
Tommy Perkins	Citizen
Michael Shealy	Citizen/Bicyclist
David Deere	Citizen
Larry Murdock	Citizen/Disabled Persons Representative
Dale Bennett	City Council Member
John Puryear	Planning Commission Member

Steering Committee Staff Support:

David Brown, Leisure Services Director
Ron Coleman, City Engineer
Mike Goff, Assigned Greenway Project Manager
Jim Svoboda, City Planner